HARAMBEE FLAME

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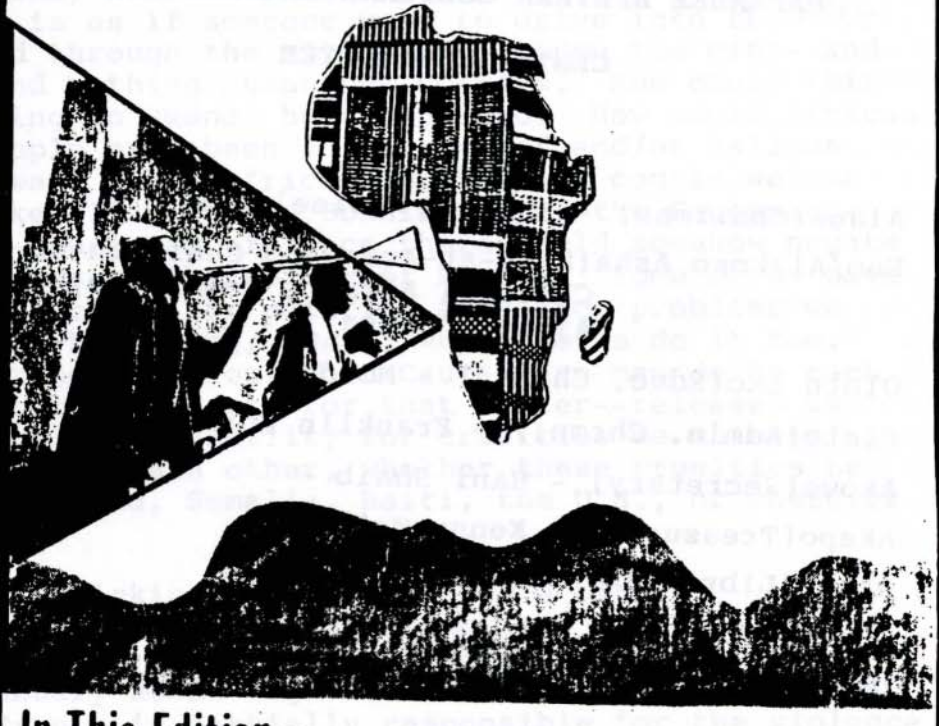

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HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION CREED

Together we seek to know that which is us, to expand our collective consciousness of who we are and whence we come. We exalt in the fact that Afrikans are beautiful in our own right rather than at the expense of any other ethnic group. And in the true spirit of the Swahili word, "harambee," we promote the idea that cultural awareness is germane to human growth.

COMMENTARY

Rwanda All Over The Place

Estimates of the number of people who have lost their lives in Rwanda's recently ended civil war range from a quarter to a half million people, African people. That is a level of human destruction hard for the mind to conceive of. Omaha, Nebraska has a population of over 400,000. It is as if someone were to drive into the city and through the city--**all** through the city--and find nothing human but corpses. How could this thing in Rwanda have happened? How could African people have been so hateful of and/or callous toward other African people? Of course we can make allusions to Bosnia, as if the Caucasian-on-Caucasian violence there could somehow negate or lessen the horror of Rwanda. Some of us have a penchant for pointing away from problems we have by saying, "Well, white folks do it too." But nothing foul that Caucasians may do to each other--or to us, for that matter--releases us from responsibility for cruelties we unleash against each other, whether these cruelties be in Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti, the U.S., or wherever else.

But sticking with Rwanda for a bit, an article("Arms Sales Destabilize Africa") in the July 6th edition of THE FINAL CALL refers to a January Human Rights Watch report claiming that "France is partially responsible for the violence in Rwanda." The article speaks of "its[France's] recent subsidy of Rwanda's purchase of $6 million in arms from Egypt" and indirect involvement by the U.S. in the arming of Rwanda. Recent coverage of events in Rwanda from U.S.-establishment publications have spoken of actual directing of violence by agents of France and Belgium. We know well the history of Europeans' meddling in the affairs of African countries, their political and economic manipulations, etc.

And there appears to be some solid evidence of both past and current French handiwork in the heightening of tensions between Rwanda's warring ethnic groups, the Hutus and Tutsis. Knowing the history of Europeans, we have little reason to doubt that they have played a role--for their own purposes of course--in this turning of Rwanda into a slaughtering ground.

But we've got to hold up and get deeper into this mess. Who are these Hutus and Tutsis? Who are Gatsha Buthelezi's Zulus of Inkatha? Who are these "attaches" and "ton-tons macoutes" who are terrorizing the population of Haiti? Who are the Bloods and Crips and others right here in the U.S. who are regularly endangering and taking the lives of their own people? These aren't marionettes. These are, above all else--the ethnic groups, political affiliations, social cliques, etc.--African people. Have colonialism and neo-colonialism, slavery and neo-slavery, and the numerous institutions by which these racist systems were established and were and have been maintained reduced us to mere puppets on strings? Are we to believe that we are incapable of doing much other than following the finger movements of European "masters"?

A common symptom of racism is Caucasians' arrogance--their belief that they have a right to direct **our** actions. Scope U.S. Caucasians' president, Billy-the-Kid Clinton. According to him, it is perfectly fine for the U.S. to have all the nuclear weapons its or/and others' resources can provide. But North Korea, a sovereign nation, can't have any. Or give thought to the recent N.A.A.C.P.-sponsored leadership summit and the attempts by Caucasians(Jewish Caucasians in particcular) to determine what African leaders were acceptable to **them**. Of course Farrakhan was not acceptable, nor were pan-Africanists, gang or former gang leaders, and others who didn't fit these Caucasians' definition of "acceptability."

Under this racist arrogance, we are intended to be nothing more or less than bricks by which the structures of Europeans' agendas are to be constructed, whether in the nations of Africa, the U.S., or wherever else. But arrogance is only effected concretely when the designs of the arrogant find and make use of those who are their objects. Ben Chavis didn't go along with the program. He didn't buckle under the pressure. The leadership summit was held and the designs of arrogant Caucasians thwarted.

We don't have to be objects of others' designs, pawns in their games. France has some arms for sale. Africans in Rwanda **don't have to** buy them and certainly **don't have to** use them against each other. There are those in this country who want us to think of ourselves and each other as "niggers"(sub-human beasts whose lives, outside service to Caucasians, have no value) and to send each other to the graveyard. But "our" rappers, comedians, and others **don't have to** promote this sick niggerism and we **don't have to** be sending each other to the graveyard. What we **have to do** is bust out the scissors and cut the strings by which we are made to dance to somebody else's tune. We--Africans in the Americas, in Africa, and elsewhere--must take the **concept** of kujichagulia(self-determination) and put it into **practice.**

On the continent of Africa, there is an Organization of African Unity(O.A.U.). It must move past its relative impotence and take measures to ensure that our Motherland can and will prevent and stop intra-African strife there; direct a reorganization of the continent's economics so that Africans there can make best possible use of their own resources and release themselves from the grip of European/Caucasian, as well as Arab, neo-colonialism; and launch serious deliberations regarding a political reorganization of the continent aimed at transforming it from a land mass of borders established through European colonialism to a unified and powerful nation or federation.

In the U.S., we must establish and expand economic structures that release us from being exclusively consumers dependent upon Caucasian and other non-African-owned corporations and make us both producers and major traders with other Africans throughout the diaspora; must build institutions in our communities by which African pride, dignity, and mutual respect become the norm and African-on-African violence and other predation become exceptions that **we** deal with **on our own**; and must create such a level of unity so that Caucasians will be unable to solicit and/or train turncoats from among us with the ease that they are able to presently.

Throughout this planet, we must subordinate ethnicity, religious belief, and everything else to our common interests as Africans. If Caucasian Christians and Caucasian Jews, Caucasian Democrats and Caucasian Republicans, Caucasian males and Caucasian females can cooperate enough to function as our "masters," we can come together sufficiently to stop being slaves.

Editor

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"We, the Organization of Afro-American Unity pledge to join hands with all people of African origin in a grand alliance by forgetting all the differences that the power structure has created to keep us divided and enslaved. We further pledge to strengthen our common bond and strive toward one goal: Freedom from oppression."

-from the "Basic Unity Program" of the Organization of Afro-American Unity, established by Omowale(Malcolm X) on February 15, 1965.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The HARAMBEE FLAME is the monthly newsletter of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization(Nebraska State Pen chapter). Ours is a pan-Africanist publication, meaning that we view all people of African descent as one African people, having certain basic interests in common. Also, the HARAMBEE FLAME attempts to be Africentric, in that, through study of the history, cultures, and traditional values of African people, we seek to have and cultivate an African way of looking at things.

The main purposes of the HARAMBEE FLAME are to stimulate and inform. We list "stimulate" first because, more than anything else, we want our readers to be moved to question their/your own ideas, lives, and the circumstances in which we live and to challenge those things that must be challenged in order for us to move from a condition of mental and spiritual servitude and physical dependence upon Caucasian institutions to a state of collective self-determination. Toward this purpose, we present commentaries, poems, etc. These do not necessarily represent the official positions of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization.

The HARAMBEE FLAME provides information because wise people want to know what's going on and because certain kinds of information can stimulate the mind, inspire people to want to act, and influence them to pursue proper understanding so that the actions they take will be as effective as possible. The main vehicle we use to provide information is our "From Other Sources" feature in which we make an effort to provide news about the problems we African people are confronted by and the steps we are taking to resolve them. In this feature, we try to provide coverage of the activities of African people and developments affecting us in the U.S., Africa, and elsewhere. "Community News" is another vehicle.

We encourage you to submit your reports, essays, poems, etc. Please enclose stamped return envelope.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

African Cable T.V. Network To Hit Air In '95

"A new full service cable network is scheduled to launch in early 1995 which will be the first cable service targeted to people of African descent in Africa and America. World African Network(WAN) will launch simultaneously in Africa and the U.S...

"Mr. Jackson[Eugene Jackson, chairman and CEO of WAN]'s vision is to build a 'cultural bridge' between Blacks in the U.S. and Africa by providing entertaining, informative and culturally sensitive programming.

"The cable service will offer 24-hour service in the U.S. and 12-hour service via-satellite to Africa...

"Programming in the United States and Africa will be similar and will include a 'comprehensive mix' of classic and contemporary movies, Pan-African films, concerts, shorts and family programming with an emphasis on global news and information, Mr. Jackson said...

"WAN, headquartered in Los Angeles, is targeting cable systems in 40 Black markets in the United States. They also plan to attract consumers to 'pay service by offering a unique programming mix especially for, about and created by people of African descent'..."

-from "African Cable Television Network Planned," page 12, July 6 THE FINAL CALL(Chicago, IL.)

Haitians In U.S. Battle For Freedom At Home

..."the Haitian people...have not allowed the leaders of the present coup to consolidate their power. However, credit should also go to the emergence of a strong political movement in the Haitian Diaspora. Fittingly designated by Father Aristide as the 'Tenth Department'(an extension of the nine geopgraphic regions which form Haiti), this new element has changed the Haitian political landscape.

"Although only loosely organized before, the estimated 1.5 million Haitians living abroad(1 million in the U.S. alone) began to mobilize in earnest after the coup...They have sensitized American public opinion about what is going on in Haiti, kept constant pressure on the U.S. president and Congress to treat Haiti fairly, and provided resistance groups in Haiti with valuable solidarity. Although most of these organizations are social and cultural by nature, politics, as per Haitian tradition, permeates their activities without exception...

"Many left grassroots organizations in Haiti have representatives in the U.S. These include the TKL(Komite Ti Legliz), a liberation theology-based movement; the FEDKA(Federation of Neighborhood Committees), which organizes 'vigilance brigades' to protect neighborhoods against right-wing thugs; the CGT(Central Workers Union); the CATH(The Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers); and the MPP(Movement Paysan Papay), the largest peasant movement in Haiti with over 100,000 members...

"Other U.S.-based associations, such as the Brooklyn-based KOZA, have organized consistent campaigns to exert pressure on the Clinton administration to keep its promises to Haiti...Another effective Brooklyn-based organization is called Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees. With a tiny staff, they have been able to help with the resettlement of many refugees freed from the Gauantanamo concentration camp...

"Strikingly absent has been active participation from the African American community. Only the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus, TransAfrica and to a lesser extent the NAACP have spoken up...

"...the potential[for the Tenth Department] to be a strong political force is obvious. Haitians annually send an estimated one hundred million dollars back home. Their capacity to mobilize is astonishing. Late last April, for instance, more than ten thousand Haitians marched from the steps of the Capitol to the White House on only a few days notice..."

-from "The Tenth Department," pages 26 and 27, July/August THIRD FORCE(Oakland, CA.)

Economic Mine Fields Ahead For Azania

"Economic power[in Azania] is so concentrated that some ten conglomerates control nearly 90 percent of the equity on the Johannesburg stock exchange. They include the Oppenheimer family's Anglo-American/DeBeers/Minorco empire, Anton Rupert's tobacco and liquor giant Rembrandt/Richemont, the Gordons' Liberty Life, the Mentells' and Hersovs' Anglovaal mining concern and insurance and banking behemoths Old Mutual and Sanlam.

"Over the past decade, many of these players--spearheaded by Anglo-American and Rembrandt--have systematically dispersed their operations and capital throughout the world.

"They have been extremely secretive, both about their financial arrangements and structures because of sanctions against South Africa--and, in the case of DeBeers, the company's virtual monopoly of the world diamond market.

"Through extensive cross-ownership, these companies remain dominant players in South Africa's economy."

-from "The Challenge Ahead In South Africa: Money," page 12, May/June ARM THE MASSES(N.Y.)

Para-military Training For Caucasians IN U.S.

"Ex-Green Beret Col. James 'Bo' Gritz...former presidential candidate of the racist Populist Party, brought his latest enterprise to southern California in April--a session of his SPIKE training that drew about 200 people to Pasadena City College(at $100 a head). SPIKE stands for Specially Prepared Individuals for Key Events, it is a para-military/survivalist operation based around Christian Patriots, Christian Identity sects and 'State Citizens' (similar to the White Citizens Councils that opposed the civil rights movement)...

"Gritz...told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer that he is 'a white separatist'...

"Gritz is teaching weapons handling and fabrication, how to produce your own ammunition, battlefield medical procedures. He is teaching helicopter and small plane operations, and inculcating in his followers a perspective on this country as terrain for a coming apocalyptic conflict. He is training his followers in intelligence gathering, secure communications, carrying out night landings and air drops, and other more openly military activities. He provides lessons in picking locks and sells the lock-pick kits to go along with it. As the stages of the training progress, they include field-stripping weapons, reloading ammo, and other aspects of military self-sufficiency...

"In addition to charging for the training, Gritz and his colleagues are peddling videos, survivalist gear, training manuals, even freeze-dried food...The two cornerstones of his operations are the Christian Identity religion and the State Citizenship/State Sovereignty philosophy. Though Gritz himself is a Mormon, his key supporters and associates are advocates of Christian Identity doctrine which preaches that the 10 lost tribes of Israel are the Northern Europeans, and that Americ is their Biblically-promised land. Identity preaches that Jews are the spawn of Satan, and that non-whites are 'mud people', Pre-Adamic creations (sub-humans) that god botched before getting it

right with the white man. Christian Identity provided the main forces that established the neo-nazi underground 'Order' in the 1980s...

"The other element of Gritz's SPIKE/Christian Covenant program is State Sovereignty. This...movement contends that only white citizens are true 'state' citizens, whose rights are superior to even the Constitution. Others(Blacks and non-white immigrants) are considered to be 'federal citizens' of the District of Columbia, not the states, and therefore aliens...

"Gritz is devoting a lot of energy to both northern and southern California. He is apparently setting up one of his Christian Covenant communities near Paradise, CA...SPIKE teams have been formed in 10 other cities, including Dallas and Phoenix. The phenomenon is related to others pushing the formation of state 'militias' as quasi-governmental bodies, a kind of dual power. Militias are currently actively being organized in Montana, with KKK involvement, Wisconsin, with participation of the Posse Comitatus, and North Carolina, where former members of the Klan and the para-military White Patriot Party are involved...

"...he is deadly serious about building a white fighting force that can contend for power militarily in the coming years, and seriously predicts that Clinton's re-election in 1996 will be the last Constitutional election."

-from "Para-Military Survivialism For 'White Citizens,'" page 10, summer edition of TURNING THE TIDE(Burbank, CA)

KUUMBA

UNIVERSAL

They can create illusions
that make you question
all reality.

An earthquake at Embarcadero station
flames engulf the San Francisco Bart
convulsions rock our cart
the frasntic screams start

but it's not real.

It's a studio production in Universal City
with paint and foam,

a million dollar affair
still if you hadn't paid admission,

you might not be aware
that the storm brewing on the Backlot
was made by sprinklers and a fan

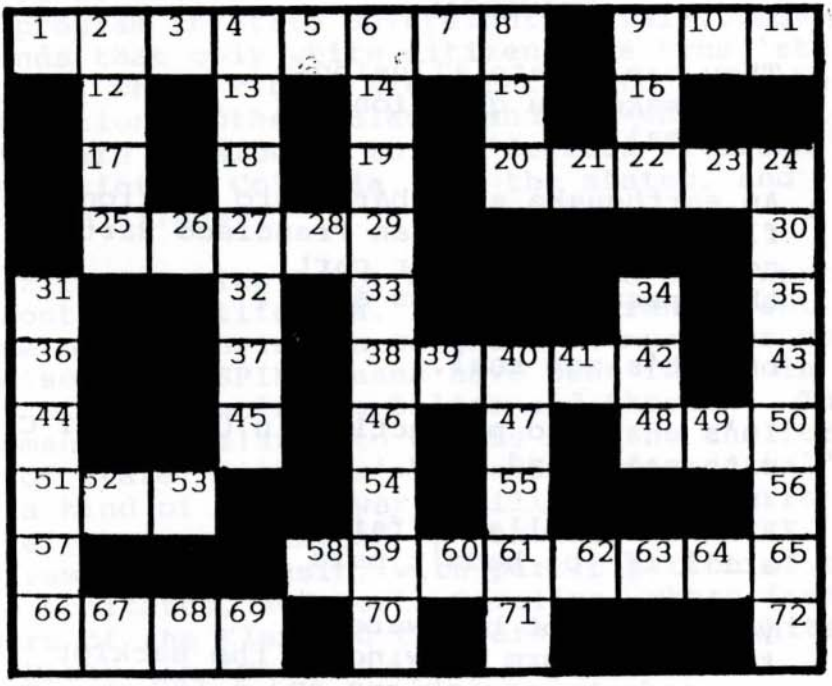
it's no wonder
that people are living in lies
lost in fantasy
acting like life is in the movies.

It sure is hard to
fix real prblems
with lines from the last show.

V.S. Chochezi

V.S. Chochezi is a mother in Sacramento who is working in the field of educational research. She is active in the affairs of African people there in Sacramento. This poem is from THIS QUEENDOM COME, authored by V.S. and Staajabu, her mother and a frequent contributor to our "Kuumba" page.

HARAMBEE FLAME AFRICENTRIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE #1



Across

1-Prior to May, 1991 "Operation Solomon," this nation was the home of most of Beta Israel("Falashas").

9-"Genetic finger print"

20-European name given to a papyrus, dated at approximately 1550 B.C., containing a medical prescription for a contraceptive tampon.

25- In kiSwahili, this word means "unity."

38-Jamaican spirituality(religion) known for its adherents' devotion to the memory of Haile Salassie.

48-African scholar and author of BLACK MAN OF THE NILE AND HIS FAMILY and many other books, known simply as "Dr. ___."

51-Though politically independent, many African nations experience an economic dependence referred to as "___-colonialism."

58-African military leader who led his troops across the Alps to defeat Rome.

66-Cross-like figure from Kemet(ancient "Egypt") that symbolizes life.

Down

2-This religious leader in Azania("So. Africa") is often compared to Martin Luther King.

4-This architect, poet, physician, etc. designed the step pyramid at Sakhara in Kemet.

6-Because Malcolm X promoted the idea of world-wide unity among people of African descent, he is said to have been _____in his philosophy.

8-Though he firmly believed in Caucasian superiority, this 19th-century U.S. leader is commonly portrayed as a great saviour of African people in this country. "Honest _____"

9-Samuel ____ was head of the nation of Liberia until run out of office by a coup in 1990.

24-During the 1800s, Africans and a grouping of indigenous people fought together against the U.S. government for more than forty years in what were called the "_____ Wars."

31-This military and political leader of the nation of Ndongo galvanized her people to resist both Dutch and Portuguese imperialism from the early 1600s through 1663, when she died.

34-This popular bandleader was known as the "hi-de-ho" man.

40-In 1739, an enslaved African led some twenty others in an uprising against Caucasians near Charleston, Virginia. This became known as the "_____ Rebellion," named after the river near which the uprising was launched.

Editor's note: This is our first Africentric crossword puzzle. At this point, we don't know how often we will be running this feature. Please let us know what you think of this first one.

PERIODICALS

MOBETTER NEWS
P.O. Box 1447
So. Holland, IL. 60473

THE FINAL CALL
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734 W. 79th St.
Chicago, IL. 60620

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28 Vesey St.
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N.Y., N.Y. 10007

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Canada

THE THIRD EYE
P.O. Box 80435
Nashville, TN. 37208

BACK IN TIME

Before the Civil War the legal status of the freed Negro paralleled the slave's utter legal powerlessness. Criminal sentences often included the provision that freedmen could be sold into slavery as punishment for a criminal offense or in lieu of payment of taxes, fines, or civil judgements...Vagrancy and other laws commonly provided for immediate punishment--usually whipping--without trial empowering slave patrols and private citizens to be at one time complainant, judge, jury, and enforcement officer.

States outside the South also passed freed Negro laws which, though often less severe than the South's, served the same purpose. The testimony of persons with "one-eighth Negro blood" was declared incompetent by Illinois and Delaware statutes. In Iowa free black persons could not be witnesses in cases involving whites. In Ohio blacks had to post bond as a condition of good behavior to secure residence. In 1853 Illinois made it a misdemeanor for a black to enter the state with the intention of residing...

After the Civil War emancipated black people saw the master-slave relationship replaced by a master-servant relationship. Many of the restrictive provisions originally applied to freed Negroes were included in the infamous Black Codes. Several states created separate systems of criminal courts for blacks, who could not testify in white courts, nor could they serve as judges or jurors in either court system. Although such punishments had been abolished for whites, blacks could be confined in public stocks or whipped.

As blatantly discriminatory laws were repealed during the era of Radical Reconstruction, more subtly restrictive statutes replaced them. Blacks were allowed to serve as witnesses, but a widely enacted statute provided that "whenever a person of color shall be examined as a witness,

(Cont. on inside back cover)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year's Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization symposium will be held on September 6 from 5-8 p.m. at the state prison in Lincoln. For more information, write to the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization at P.O. Box 2500; Lincoln, NE; 68542-2500. Or call 471-3161 between 12:45 and 2:45, Monday through Friday.

The African American Museums Association(AAMA) will hold its 1994 annual conference on August 25, 26 & 27, at the Swissotel, Chicago, Illinois. The conference will be hosted by the DuSable Museum of African American HIstory of Chicago...the conference will deal with philosophical issues relating to the purpose--past, present and future--of African American museums, as well as explore basic museology topics. Dr. Gwendolyn K. Robinson, director of the DuSabdle Museum, and conference organizers are tapping the vast resources of the Chicago museum community to present a diverse and exciting program....For conference registration or membership information, contact Jocelyn Robinson-Hubbuch, executive director, at 513-376-4611, or write AAMA, P.O. Box 548, Wilberforce, OH 45384.

It's About Time...

Committee to Celebrate the Founding of the
Black Panther Party
Post Office Box 221100
Sacramento, California 95822

We have met monthly since February of this year to plan an event which commemorates, celebrates, and reflects our contribution to the struggle for human dignity, community empowerment, and national liberation. The reunion will be held in Oct. of 1996. Let us know what you'd like to see, hear and perhaps present.

the court shall warn the witness to declare the truth." Whites were not similarly warned. Although the Black Code of Texas provided that "there shall be no discrimination against such persons(blacks) in the administration of the criminal laws of this state," it included the qualifications that the law did not permit blacks to intermarry with whites, serve on juries, vote, or testify in cases involving whites...

Source: STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE: A REPORT ON CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN AMERICA, Hill and Wang Publ.

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$7per one year

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